

OSLOMET

# Østeuropeerne som dro igjen

Utvandring blant innvandrere  
fra de nye EU-landene i øst,  
og hva utvandrerne selv  
forteller

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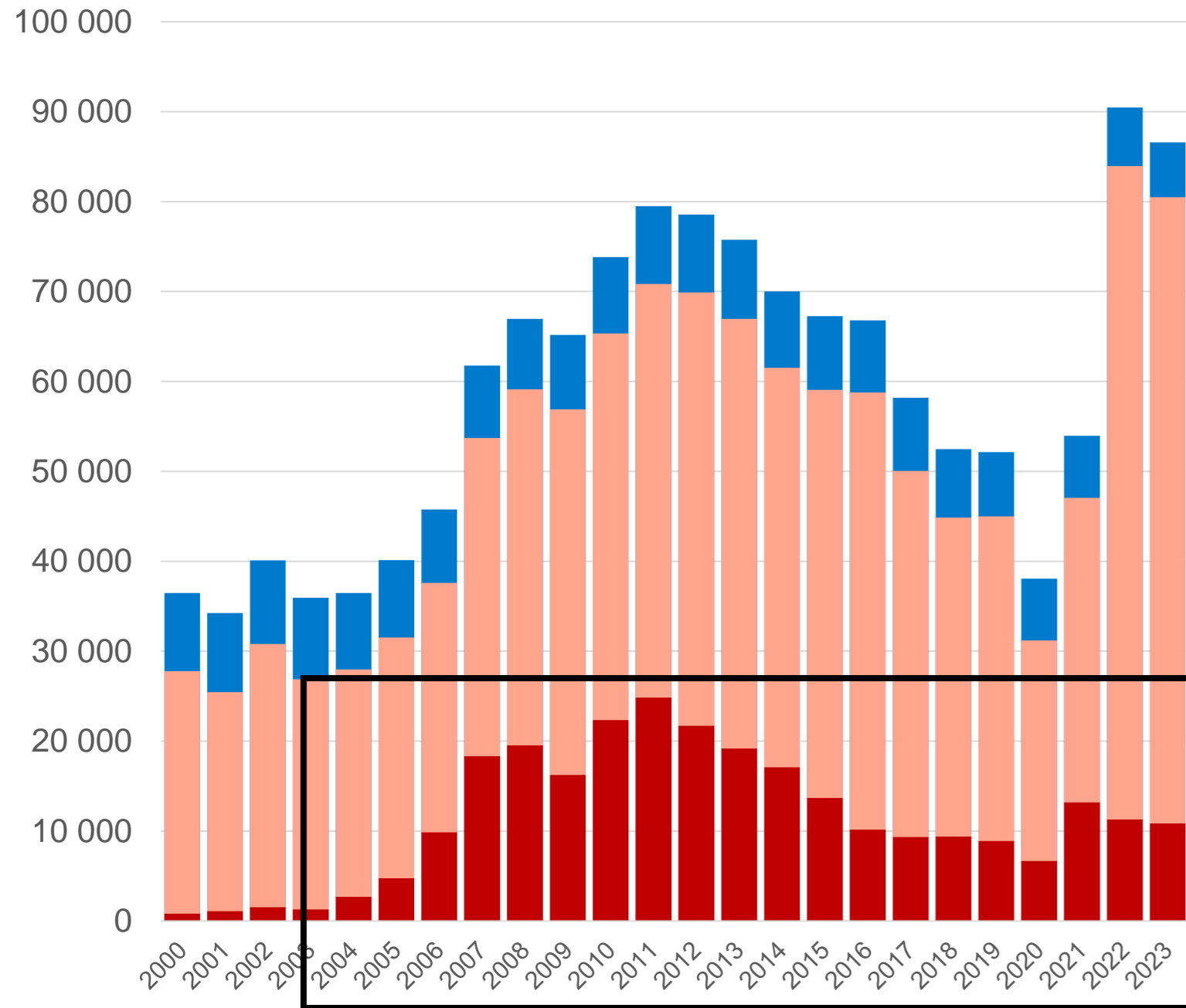
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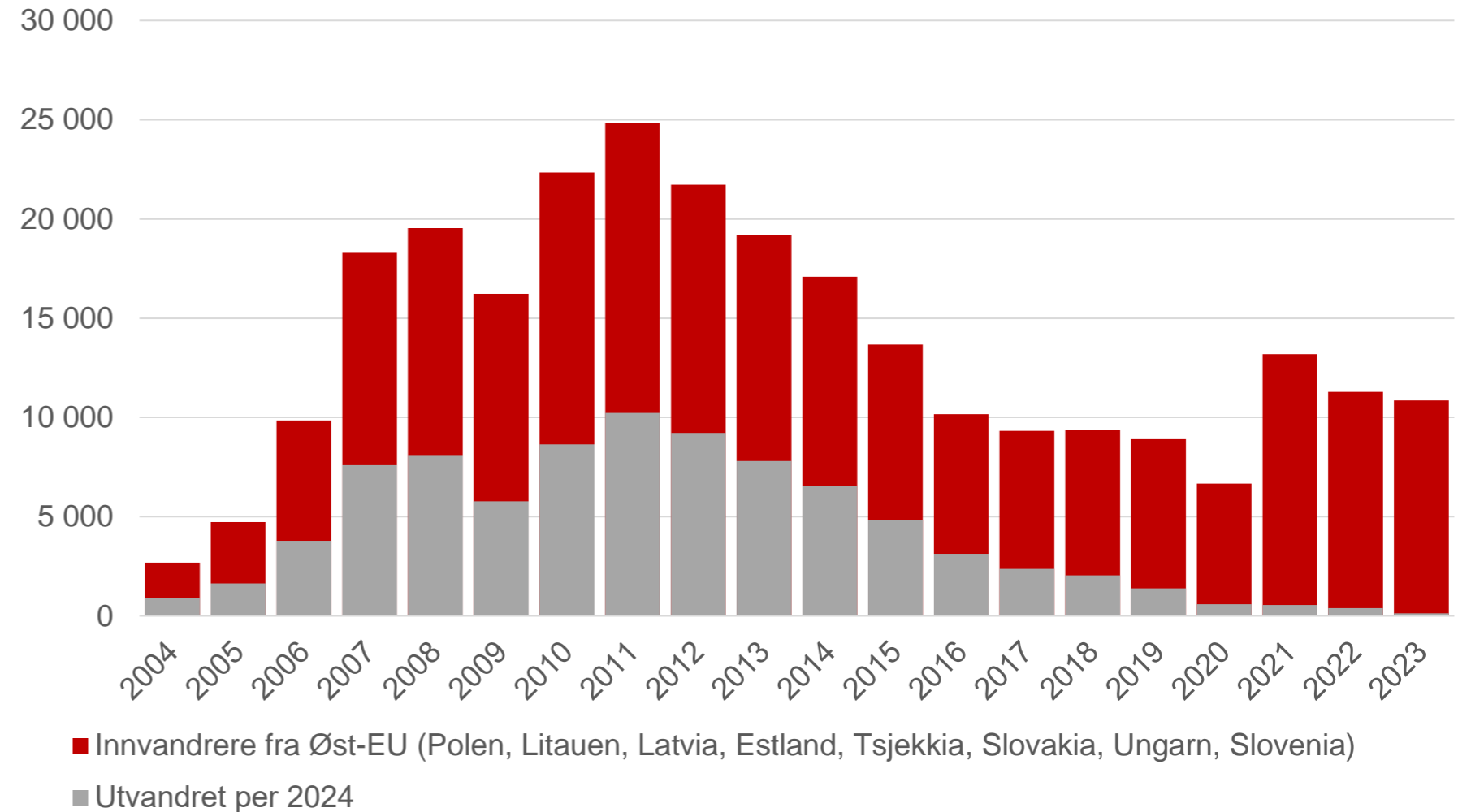


# Innvandring til Norge etter 2000

Innvandring til Norge fra 2000



- Siden 2004 har 270,000 personer fra de østeuropeiske landene som da ble EU-medlemmer, innvandret til Norge
- Av disse er 86,000 (32%) nå registrert som utvandret fra Norge





# Hva vet vi om de som har utvandret fra Norge?

Det er ikke gjort så mange studier av de siste tiårenes utvandring fra Norge

EXITNORWAY – forskningsprosjekt ved NIBR/Oslomet

- Kvantitative analyser: *Hva sier registerdataene?*
- Kvalitative analyser: *Hva sier utvandrerne selv?*

I dag: En smakebit fra begge disse

# Hva sier registerdataene?

De fleste som utvandrer fra Norge har tidligere innvandret hit, de har altså vært innvandrere i Norge

Blant innvandrere viser tallene at

- nyankomne utvandrer i større grad enn de som har vært mange år i Norge
- de i alderen 18-24 år utvandrer i større grad enn innvandrere som er eldre
- enslige (en-personshusholdning) utvandrer mer enn de som har familie i Norge

Etter å ha kontrollert for disse faktorene, finner vi også store forskjeller etter innvandrernes opprinnelsesland:

Høye utvandringssannsynligheter



Lave utvandringssannsynligheter

# Hva sier registerdataene om de fra Øst-EU?

Noen resultater fra analyser som bare ser på utvandringen blant innvandrere fra de nye EU-landene i øst (2004):

- Enslige utvandrer oftere enn de med familie i Norge
- Mer utvandring i økonomiske nedgangstider i Norge (og motsatt for gode økonomiske år)
- Menn utvandrer i større grad enn kvinner
- Høyest utvandringssannsynligheter blant personer i 30-årene
- Innvandrere fra Polen, Latvia og Litauen utvandrer i noe mindre grad enn de fra Estland og Tsjekkia/Slovakia/Ungarn/Slovenia
- Høyere utvandringssannsynligheter blant de uten jobb
- ... og blant de med lave inntekter i Norge
- Noe høyere utvandringssannsynligheter blant de med jobb i industrien sammenlignet med de i bygg og anlegg

! FORELØPIGE RESULTATER !

# Hva sier utvanderne selv?

# What do the emigrants say?

- Why do Latvians leave Norway?
- What are their main experiences from working and living in Norway?
- How do they succeed or fail after returning?

- In total, 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with 23 migrants (three family interviews) who have returned from Norway to Latvia.
- The youngest interviewee was 28 years old and the oldest - 48.
- All interviews were conducted in Latvian.
- The longest emigration period among the interviewed was 13 years, while the shortest was 5 years.
- Nine interviewees worked in construction, four worked in the cleaning sector, others worked in the post office, as a seller, waiter, driver, librarian, nurse, in the office.
- Nine interviewees had higher education, 10 interviewees - secondary professional, one had only basic education, others – secondary education.
- All interviews were carried out between September 23 - November 23, 2022.
- The interviews were audio-recorded and then transcribed and the average length was 70 to 80 minutes.
- Participants were recruited through different networks, social media and snowballing.



# What were the main reasons for emigration from Norway?

## *Return to Latvia*

- Longing for Latvia («Latvia is home»)
- Longing for family (parents), friends
- Preservation of Latvian identity (regarding children)
- The feeling that living in Latvia has become better
  - "I just felt like I wanted to go home. I want to go home, I want to raise my child in Latvia, because Latvia also started to recover after the crisis" (22NOR01).
  - "We understood that we do not want the children to become Norwegians, we want them to grow up in Latvia, so that they retain Latvian values. [...] I had to go to Norway so that I could understand how big a patriot of Latvia I am" (22NOR02).
  - "In Latvia, the salary was already competitive enough with what we earned there"(22NOR06).
  - "We had a cool house, we had everything, but did we have someone to grill with and drink beer with? No! We needed relatives, friends, social life" (22NOR07).

# What were the main reasons for emigration from Norway?

## *Why leave Norway?*

- Difficulty to integrate into Norwegian society
  - "I felt that I was being looked at as an immigrant" (22NOR03).
  - "The attitude of the employer and colleagues was like towards immigrants. In the first workplace it was very pronounced. In other workplaces it was much better, but in any case they consider everyone as immigrants, a lower class" (22NOR05).
  - "I really liked the attitude of the people, that they were very friendly, but at the same time I always felt like a foreigner there anyway. [...] We did not develop a particularly close relationship with any Norwegian family to the extent that we would invite each other for a birthday" (22NOR19)
  - "You are an immigrant, no matter how perfectly you speak Norwegian. Also, you are looked down upon a little" (22NOR17)

# What were the main reasons for emigration from Norway?

## *Why leave Norway?*

- Fear of «Barnevernet»
  - "There was fear about the Norwegian Orphanage. *Those who take children away.* We had Lithuanian friends. They left the country only because they were afraid that their child could be taken away from them (...). We also had a child, we never thought, that we would have to leave because of that, but *it worried me all the time*" (22NOR13)
  - "I would not recommend Norway to a family" (22NOR09).
- The opportunities to earn well in Norway decreased
  - "There were not so many guest workers in 2008, so we were held in high esteem and paid well. But now there will be at least five, six more in line behind me for that position. And they will work for many times less money. And Norwegians no longer want to pay as much as they did when there were not so many migrant workers here" (22NOR20).
  - "From 2017, I told my wife that there is no point in living here anymore. We came to Norway for money. But in recent years, money has become harder to earn. The exchange rate was very bad" (22NOR13).

# Conclusions: Emotions versus socio-economic conditions

- The reasons and decision for migration to Norway are most often seen as determined by **socio-economic conditions**:
  - A significant reason for migration was the financial and economic crisis, which hit Latvia especially hard in 2009-2011. At the same time, the choice in favor of migration to Norway was acquaintances, contacts.
- Return to Latvia is based mostly on **emotions, identity, feelings of belonging**

# Main experiences from working and living in Norway: Work environment

- As positive aspects, Latvian migrants emphasize the good organization of the work environment, the feeling of safety at work, the kind attitude of employers, the fact that the needs of employees are taken into account.
- Compared to working in Latvia, everyone in Norway is used to working more slowly and calmly:
  - "In Norway, everything is slower, everything happens easily, calmly and slowly. In Latvia, people are used to rushing and working more tensely. At first it was quite unusual, but in the end you get used to it" (22NOR11).



# Success after return is based on transnational working relationships

- Both modern communication technologies, Internet connections and available airplane connections contribute to the fact that the return takes place while maintaining close professional ties with Norway.
  - "My husband worked here for about two months and then he found a job in a large company in Oslo. And so it has been since that time, he regularly flies by plane. He is in Norway for two weeks and he is in Latvia for two weeks" (22NOR02).
  - "An offer came that the company here needs a Norwegian-speaking person. I took a chance and said yes" (22NOR02).
  - "They work with money transfers and I serve Norwegian customers. [...] I develop a chatbox for Norwegians" (22NOR04).
  - "My job is related to the Norwegian language. I work with Norwegian clients. I speak Norwegian everyday with Norwegian clients" (22NOR07).
  - There was a job on my way that required Norwegian. They were happy to have someone who spoke Norwegian fluently" (22NOR08).
  - "Now I work in a Swedish company as a logistics coordinator [...] People who have returned from Scandinavian countries work here" (22NOR11).
- These cases can be considered a "win-win" situation, where both Scandinavian employers and employees are satisfied, because the working environment and working relations are similar, but they can live in Latvia.